

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# 132nd MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST SPECIAL SESSION-2025

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Legislative Document

No. 1968

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H.P. 1312

House of Representatives, May 13, 2025

### An Act to Amend the Laws Regarding Legislative Reimbursement

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Reference to the Committee on State and Local Government suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Robert B. Hunt".

ROBERT B. HUNT  
Clerk

Presented by Representative MOONEN of Portland.

1       **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:**

2       **Sec. 1. 3 MRSA §2, 4th ¶**, as amended by PL 2023, c. 2, §3, is further amended to  
3 read:

4       Except as provided in this section, each member of the Senate and House of  
5 Representatives is entitled to the travel-related expenses of a meal allowance in the amount  
6 of \$50 set by the Legislative Council and a housing allowance in the amount of \$70 set by  
7 the Legislative Council for each day in attendance at sessions of the Legislature and for  
8 each day the member occupies overnight accommodations away from home either  
9 immediately preceding or immediately following attendance at daily sessions of the  
10 Legislature. The presiding officers may establish reasonable policies regarding allowances  
11 for meals and overnight accommodations for the day immediately preceding the session,  
12 which may include policies regarding whether an allowance is paid, whether the full  
13 amount or a portion of the ~~statutory~~ allowance set by the Legislative Council is paid and  
14 whether receipts are required. In lieu of the meal and housing allowance, each member is  
15 entitled to a daily meal allowance in the amount of \$50 set by the Legislative Council and  
16 actual daily mileage. Each member of the Senate also receives an annual allowance for  
17 constituent services in the amount of \$2,000, \$1,300 in January and \$700 in the month  
18 following adjournment of the regular session. Each member of the House of  
19 Representatives also receives an annual allowance for constituent services in the amount  
20 of \$1,500, \$1,005 in January and \$495 in the month following adjournment of the regular  
21 session. Notwithstanding this section, during the first regular session of each legislative  
22 biennium, a member of the Senate or the House of Representatives may elect to receive the  
23 first payment of the annual allowance for constituent services in December following  
24 convening of the Legislature by notifying the Executive Director of the Legislative Council  
25 in the manner prescribed by the executive director. The Executive Director of the  
26 Legislative Council shall inform Legislators of the choice available for payment of the  
27 allowance for constituent services in the first year of the legislative biennium and of any  
28 tax implications associated with exercising that choice. To set the amount of an allowance  
29 under this paragraph, at least 6 members of the Legislative Council must vote in favor of  
30 the allowance at the beginning of the first regular session of a legislative biennium. The  
31 amount of an allowance set by the Legislative Council under this paragraph may not exceed  
32 the regular federal per diem rate for lodging, meals and incidental expenses applicable to  
33 that allowance.

34       **Sec. 2. 3 MRSA §2, 11th ¶**, as amended by PL 2023, c. 2, §5, is further amended  
35 to read:

36       The President of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the floor  
37 leaders and their assistants and members of a committee, with the approval of the President  
38 of the Senate or the Speaker of the House of Representatives as to members of a committee,  
39 may also meet on days when the Legislature is not in daily session at any convenient  
40 location within the State. Each member of the Senate and House of Representatives is  
41 entitled to receive \$55 for every day's attendance when meetings or daily sessions are held  
42 and the travel-related expenses of a meal allowance in the amount of \$50 set by the  
43 Legislative Council and a housing allowance whereby actual lodging expenses will be  
44 reimbursed at the single-room rate, as long as a receipt is submitted to the Executive  
45 Director of the Legislative Council for each day in attendance at such meetings or daily

1 sessions and for each day that member occupies overnight accommodations away from  
2 home either immediately preceding or immediately following attendance at daily sessions  
3 of the Legislature and actual daily mileage allowances at the rate of 55¢ per mile or the  
4 federal standard mileage rate, whichever is lower, for travel from that Legislator's place of  
5 abode, the mileage to be determined by the most reasonable direct route. In lieu of the meal  
6 and housing allowance, each member ~~shall be~~ is entitled to a daily meal allowance in the  
7 amount ~~of \$50 set by the Legislative Council~~ and actual daily mileage allowances. To set  
8 the amount of an allowance under this paragraph, at least 6 members of the Legislative  
9 Council must vote in favor of the allowance at the beginning of the first regular session of  
10 a legislative biennium. The amount of an allowance set by the Legislative Council under  
11 this paragraph may not exceed the regular federal per diem rate for lodging, meals and  
12 incidental expenses applicable to that allowance.

13 **Sec. 3. 3 MRSA §2, 13th ¶**, as amended by PL 1989, c. 501, Pt. O, §6; c. 600, Pt.  
14 B, §§9 and 10; and c. 878, Pt. D, §§14 and 15, is further amended to read:

15 If a member of the Legislature dies or otherwise vacates the office, the successor is  
16 entitled to a salary from the date of seating, ~~computed as follows: two hundred ten dollars~~  
17 ~~per week times the number of weeks remaining in the calendar year if the vacancy occurs~~  
18 ~~in the first year and \$150 per week for the number of weeks remaining in the calendar year~~  
19 ~~if the vacancy occurs in the 2nd year equal to the salary that would have been afforded to~~  
20 ~~the successor had the successor been seated at the start of the biennium, except that the~~  
21 ~~salary must be prorated from the date the successor is sworn into office.~~

## 22 SUMMARY

23 This bill amends the provisions of law governing legislative compensation. The bill  
24 removes specific dollar amounts that Legislators may be reimbursed for meal allowances,  
25 travel-related expenses of a meal allowance and housing allowances and instead provides  
26 that the rate of these allowances must be set by the Legislative Council. These changes  
27 apply to allowances for days the Legislature is in session and for days the Legislature is  
28 not in session. The bill clarifies that to set the amount of the allowances, at least 6 members  
29 of the Legislative Council must vote in favor of the allowance at the beginning of the first  
30 regular session in a legislative biennium. The amount of an allowance set by the Legislative  
31 Council may not exceed the regular federal per diem rate for lodging, meals and incidental  
32 expenses applicable to that allowance.

33 The bill clarifies that for the purposes of allowances for mileage on days that the  
34 Legislature is not in session, daily mileage is calculated from the Legislator's place of  
35 abode, determined by the most reasonable direct route.

36 The bill amends the provision governing the salary owed to a person who replaces a  
37 member of the Legislature who has died or otherwise vacated the office. The bill provides  
38 that the successor is entitled to a salary from the date the successor is seated equal to the  
39 salary that would have been afforded to the successor had the successor been seated at the  
40 start of the biennium, except that the salary must be prorated from the date the successor is  
41 sworn into office.